

Message Text

SECRET

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NEA:ALATHERTONJR.

S/S: MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 292957

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, US

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: DAMASCUS 8166

YOU INFORMED KHADDAM THAT LANE WOULD BE HAVING A FURTHER
TALK WITH SARKIS AND THAT WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO KEEP THE
SYRIAN GOVERNMENT INFORMED. YOU SHOULD NOW MAKE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS TO HIM:

-- LANE SAW SARKIS NOVEMBER 29 FOR A FURTHER DISCUSSION
OF THE PROBLEM OF SECURITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. HE ASKED
ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE CHRISTIAN FORCES ALONG
THE SOUTHERN BORDER AS A BASIS FOR A LEBANESE SECURITY
FORCE THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH. SARKIS SAID THAT SUCH FORCES
WERE TOO WEAK AND THEIR USE WOULD BE TOO DIVISIVE
POLITICALLY. HE HAD EARLIER TOLD US THAT HE SAW NO POS-
SIBILITY OF PUTTING A SUBSTANTIAL ENOUGH LEBANESE FORCE IN-
TO THE FIELD FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, AND HE THEREFORE

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BELIEVED ONLY THE ARAB SECURITY FORCE WAS AVAILABLE FOR THE

PRESENT.

-- SARKIS T;OUGHT IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAN AN ASF
UNIT BE SENT TO TYRE TO CLOSE THE PORT AGAINST RESUPPLY

OF THE PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS IN THE SOUTH. HE ALSO THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO USE ASF UNITS TO CONTROL
PALESTINIAN CONCENTRATIONS SOUTH OF SIDON AND IN
NABATIYAH.

-- SINCE WE HAD STRESSED TO SARKIS THAT FURTHER SOUTHWARD
MOVEMENT OF THE ASF COULD BE DESTABILIZING, HE TOLD LANE
THAT NO UNITS S;OULD BE MOVED IN THIS DIRECTION WITHOUT
CONSULTATION WITH US.

-- WE WILL CONTINUE OUR CONTACTS WITH THE ISRAELIS AND
WITH SARKIS IN AN EFFORT TO HELP WORK OUT A SOLUTION TO
THE SECURITY PROBLEM IN THE SOUTH, AND WILL KEEP THE
SYRIANS INFORMED.

-- ANY VIEWS THAT THEY MAY HAVE WOULD OF COURSE BE MORE
THAN WELCOMED. ROBINSON

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